



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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**TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY OF THE STATE
SUSAN BYSIEWICZ
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 17, 2010**

Good Morning Chairperson Slossberg, Chairman Spallone, ranking members and other distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. For the record, my name is Susan Bysiewicz, and I am the Secretary of the State. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in regard to the following bill.

S.B. No. 328: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTARIES PUBLIC

I respectfully oppose this bill because it asks the Office of the Secretary of the State to create a manual that advises Connecticut notaries to act in ways that do not correspond to Connecticut law. The Office of the Secretary of the State publishes a manual for Connecticut notaries to use as a reference tool during the performance of their tasks. The manual is meant to be relied on by notaries as explaining the correct procedure to use for any task they may be asked to perform. Indeed, the information contained in this manual is based on Connecticut law as defined by its statutes. This bill asks the Office of the Secretary of the State to alter the manual, not in accordance with law, but in accordance with the Model Notary Act as developed by the National Notary Association. While a great deal of this act is contained in our statutes, some of it is not. I could not, in good conscience, publish a document that asks notaries to rely on a procedure that differs from what our law requires, but that is exactly what this bill asks me to do.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today and look forward to working with the committee on this and other important issues.